

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11

FAA-00 SY-10 USSS-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01

/176 W

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R 191450Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3994

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 601

UNCLAS TUNIS 7032

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TUNISIAN REACTION TO ROME AIRPORT TERRORISM
ATTACK.

1. DEC 19 ISSUE OF LA PRESSE, OFFICIAL GOT FRENCH
LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AND MOST WIDELY READ TUNISIAN DAILY
CARRIES TWO FRONT-PAGE STATEMENTS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF
THE DEC 17 TERRORIST ATTACK BY SELF PROCLAIMED PALESTINIAN
COMMANDOS ON A PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT AT THE ROME
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AIRPORT AND THE SUBSEQUENT HIJACKING OF THE LUFTHANSA

PLANE. THE FIRST STATEMENT, ENTITLED "AN UNJUSTIFIABLE ACT", IS SIGNED BY THE NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER, APPARENTLY TO GIVE IT FURTHER OFFICIAL WEIGHT. IN IT THE WRITER DESCRIBES THE ACT AS "IRRESPONSIBLE AND ANARCHIC" AND STATES THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE "MASSACRE" OF MORE THAN 30 INNOCENT PERSONS. THE WRITER OBSERVES THAT SUCH NEGATIVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE NOT ONLY HARM THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE BUT ALSO THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE. THE WRITER CONCLUDES BY DOUBTING THE BONA FIDES OF THE COMMANDOS AND WONDERS IF "ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS" MAY NOT BE BEHIND THE OPERATION AT A TIME WHEN ISRAEL SEES ARAB-EUROPEAN DEVELOPING AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE. THE OTHER STATEMENT IN BOLDFACE TYPE IS ENTITLED "TUNISIA CONDEMNS FIUMICINO INCIDENT." THE WRITER ALSO DEPLORES IRRESPONSIBILITY THIS DEED AND POINTS OUT THAT THE PLO, THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, HAS DISAVOWED THIS "ACT OF VIOLENCE."

3. MEANWHILE ALL FOUR TUNIS NEWSPAPERS OF DEC 19 CARRY TEXT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S MESSAGE TO KING HASSAN IN MOROCCO EXPRESSING HIS CONDOLENCES OVER THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL HIGH RANKING MOROCCAN OFFICIALS ON THE PAN AMERICAN PLANE AND NOTING "THIS REGRETTABLE INCIDENT HAS ALSO BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE."

4. TUNISIAN CONTACTS OF THE EMBASSY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED HORROR AND DISMAY OVER THIS TRAGEDY. SEELYE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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